

# Today's Presenter



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# Native Stories, Native Peoples: Opportunities for Library Engagement



Naomi Bishop, MLIS  
WebJunction February 15, 2023

# Overview

- Demographics of American Indians
- Tribal Crit and Libraries
- Visibility and Acknowledgment of Native Nations
- Small but Mighty
- Questions

# What do you think of when I say Native Americans?



Photos by Naomi Bishop

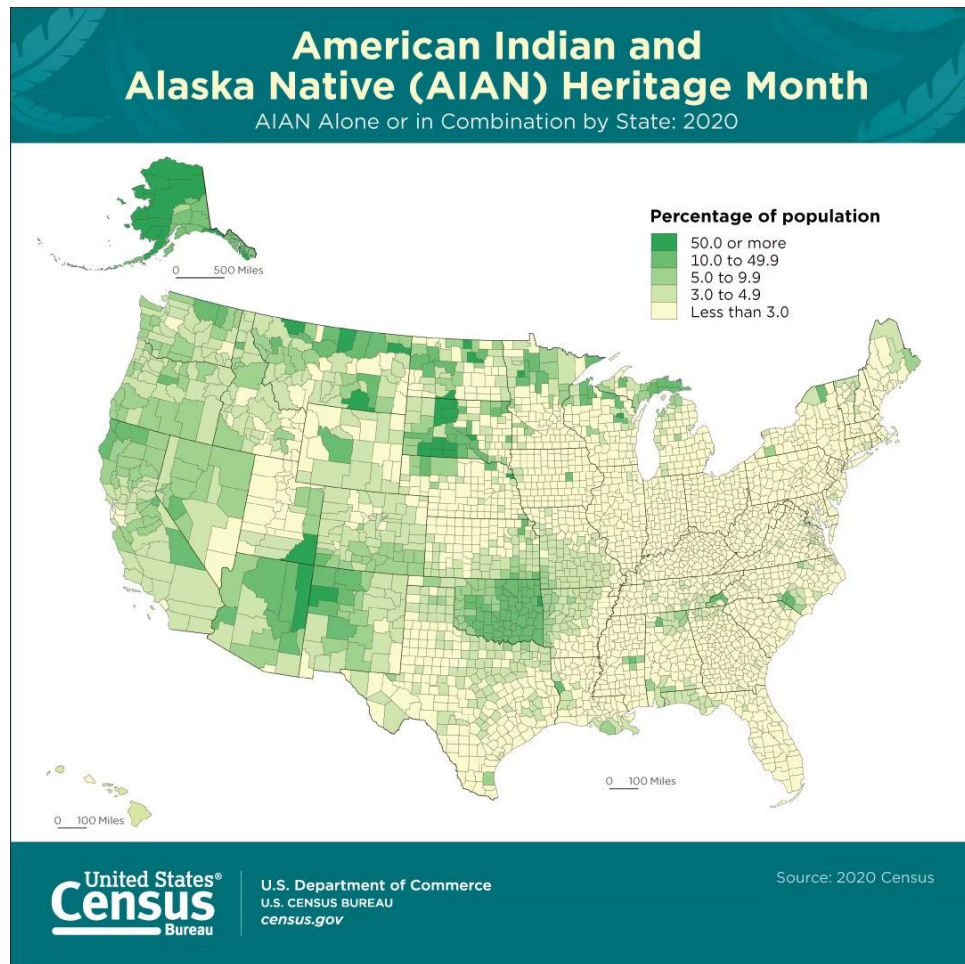
# Demographics

2019 American Community Survey, out of the 5.7 million people who identified as American Indian and Alaska Native, 4.4 million also identified with at least one tribal grouping.

The nation's American Indian and Alaska Native population alone in 2020 was 3.7 million. This population group identifies as AIAN only and did not identify with any other race.

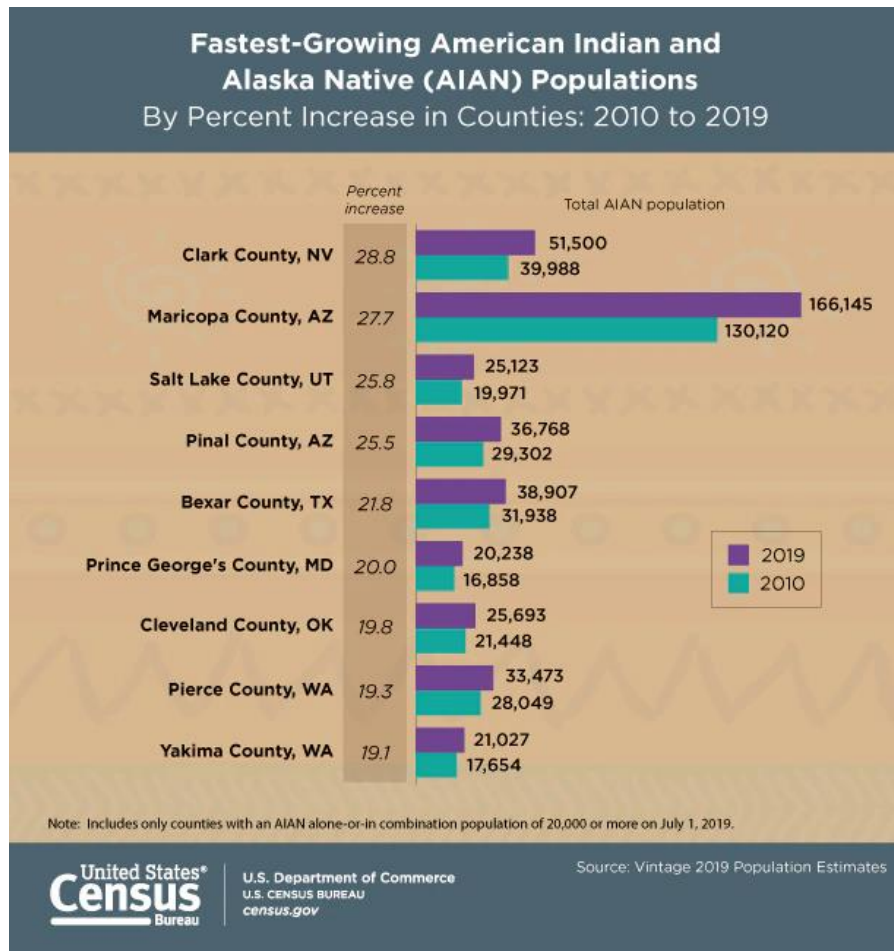
574 federally recognized Indian tribes in 2022.

324 distinct, federally recognized American Indian reservations in 2022, including federal reservations and off-reservation trust land.



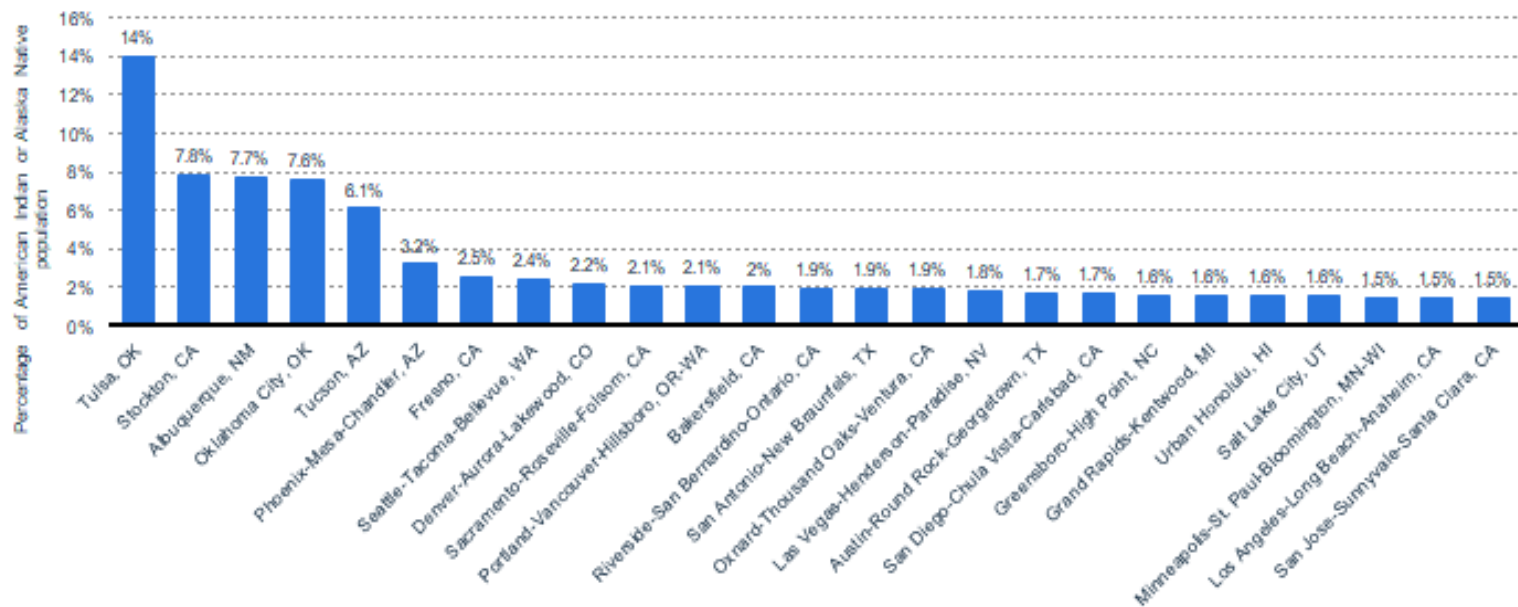
# AIAN Population

60 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives live in metropolitan areas.



## Leading metropolitan areas with the highest percentage of American Indian or Alaska Native population in the U.S. in 2019

U.S. metropolitan areas with the highest percentage of native population 2019



Note(s): United States; 2019

Further information regarding this statistic can be found on [page 8](#)

Source(s): US Census Bureau; [ID:432678](#)

# Where do you get information about Native Americans?



Contents [hide]

- (Top)
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- > History
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- > Contemporary issues
- > Society, language, and culture
- > Interracial relations
- > Racial identity
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- References
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## Native Americans in the United States

42 languages

Article Talk

Read Edit View history

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Native Americans**, also known as **American Indians**, **First Americans**, **Indigenous Americans**, and **other terms**, are the **Indigenous peoples** of the mainland United States (*indigenous peoples of Hawaii, Alaska and territories of the United States* are generally known by other terms). There are 574 **federally recognized tribes** living within the US, about half of which are associated with **Indian reservations**. As defined by the **United States Census**, "Native Americans" are Indigenous tribes that are originally from the **contiguous United States**, along with **Alaska Natives**. Indigenous peoples of the United States who are not listed as American Indian or Alaska Native include **Native Hawaiians**, **Samoa Americans**, and **Chamorros**. The US Census groups these peoples as "**Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders**".

European colonization of the Americas, which began in 1492, resulted in a precipitous decline in Native American population because of new diseases, wars, ethnic cleansing, and enslavement.<sup>[4][5][9][7]</sup> After its formation, the United States, as part of its policy of **settler colonialism**, continued to wage war and perpetrated massacres against many Native American peoples, **removed** them from their **ancestral lands**, and subjected them to **one-sided treaties** and to discriminatory government policies, later focused on forced **assimilation**, into the 20th century.<sup>[8][9][10]</sup> Since the 1960s, **Native American self-determination movements** have resulted in positive changes to the lives of many Native Americans, though there are still many **contemporary issues faced by them**. Today, there are over five million Native Americans in the United States, 78% of whom live outside reservations. The states with the highest percentage of Native Americans in the U.S. are **Alaska**, **New Mexico**, **South Dakota**, **Montana**, and **North Dakota**.<sup>[11]</sup>

When the United States was created, established Native American tribes were generally considered semi-independent nations, as they generally lived in communities separate from **white settlers**. The federal government signed treaties at a government-to-government level until the *Indian Appropriations Act of 1871* ended recognition of independent Native nations, and started treating them as "domestic dependent nations" subject to applicable federal laws. This law did preserve the rights and privileges agreed to under the treaties, including a large degree of **tribal sovereignty**. For this reason, many Native American reservations are still independent of state law and the actions of tribal citizens on these reservations are subject only to tribal courts and federal law, often differently applicable to tribal lands than to U.S. state or territory by exemption, exclusion, treaty, or superseding tribal or federal law.

The *Indian Citizenship Act* of 1924 granted U.S. citizenship to all Native Americans born in the United States

### Native Americans

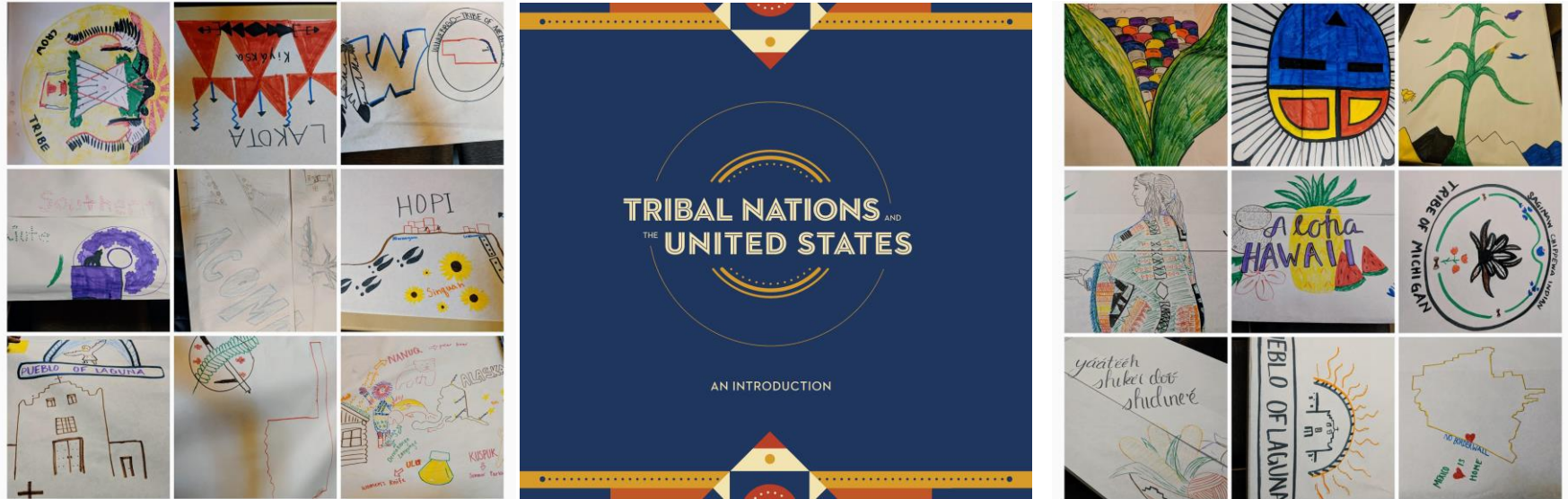


Proportion of Indigenous Americans in each county of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico as of the 2020 United States Census

Total population
<b>American Indian and Alaska Native (2020 census)</b> <sup>[12]</sup>
<b>One race:</b> 3,727,135 are registered in combination with one or more of the other races listed: 5,938,923
<b>Total:</b> 9,666,058 ~ 2.9% of the total U.S. population.
Regions with significant populations
Pre dominantly in the <b>Western United States</b> ; small communities also exist in the <b>Eastern United States</b>
Languages
<b>English</b>
<b>Native American languages</b> (including <b>Navajo</b> , <b>Central Alaskan Yup'ik</b> , <b>Tlingit</b> , <b>Haida</b> , <b>Dakota</b> , <b>Seneca</b> , <b>Lakota</b> , <b>Western Apache</b> , <b>Keres</b> , <b>Cherokee</b> , <b>Choctaw</b> , <b>Creek</b> , <b>Kiowa</b> , <b>Comanche</b> , <b>Osage</b> , <b>Zuni</b> , <b>Pawnee</b> , <b>Shawnee</b> , <b>Winnebago</b> , <b>Ojibwe</b> , <b>Cree</b> , <b>O'odham</b> ) <sup>[3]</sup>



# Tribal Nations



**Tribal Nations & the United States: An Introduction**  
National Congress of American Indians

<https://www.ncai.org/about-tribes>

# Sources for information

Tribal Websites and Tribal Newspapers

National Congress of American Indians <https://www.ncai.org/>

National Museum of the American Indian <https://americanindian.si.edu/>

National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans>

Native Knowledge 360 <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/faq/did-you-know>

Interior Library links <https://www.doi.gov/library/internet/native>

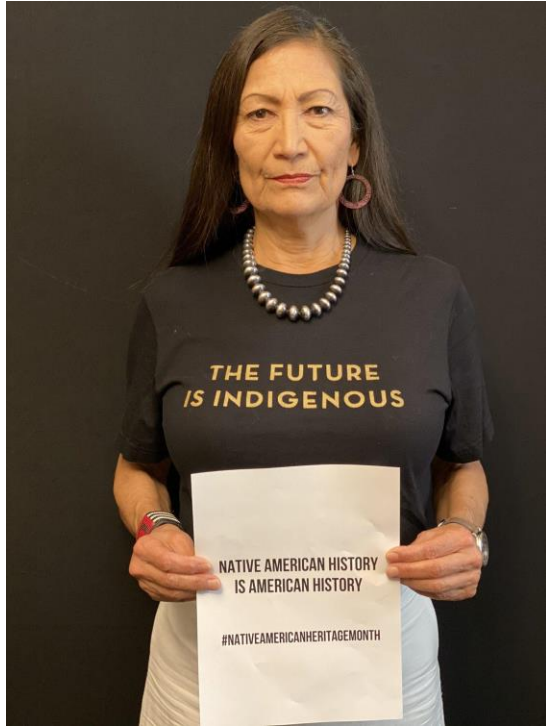
Census My Tribal Area <https://www.census.gov/tribal/>

Indian Country Today <https://ictnews.org/>

Native News Online <https://nativenewsonline.net/>

Indianz.com- Ho-Chunk Nation <https://www.indianz.com/>

# Tribal Critical Race Theory



Deb Haaland celebrating Native American Heritage Month in 2019, [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Brayboy, B. M. K. J. (2005). [Toward a Tribal Critical Race Theory in education](#). *Urban Review*, 37(5), 425-446.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11256-005-0018-y>

National Education Policy Center. [What is Tribal Crit?](#) (pdf) National Education Policy Center. November newsletter, 2020.

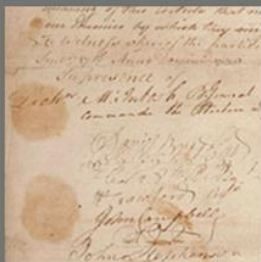
# Tribal Crit

1. Colonization is endemic to society.
2. U.S. policies toward Indigenous peoples are rooted in imperialism, White supremacy, and a desire for material gain.
3. Indigenous peoples occupy a liminal space that accounts for both the political and racialized natures of our identities.
4. Indigenous peoples have a desire to obtain and forge tribal sovereignty, tribal autonomy, self-determination, and self-identification.
5. The concepts of culture, knowledge, and power take on new meaning when examined through an Indigenous lens.
6. Governmental policies and educational policies toward Indigenous peoples are intimately linked around the problematic goal of assimilation.
7. Tribal philosophies, beliefs, customs, traditions, and visions for the future are central to understanding the lived realities of Indigenous peoples, but they also illustrate the differences and adaptability among individuals and groups.
8. Stories are not separate from theory; they make up theory and are, therefore, real and legitimate sources of data and ways of being.
9. Theory and practice are connected in deep and explicit ways such that scholars must work towards social change.

# NATION to NATION

Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations

Treaties—solemn agreements between sovereign nations—lie at the heart of the relationship between Indian Nations and the United States. Native Nations made treaties with one another long before Europeans came to the Western Hemisphere. The United States began making treaties with Native Peoples because they were independent nations. Often broken, sometimes coerced, treaties still define mutual obligations between the United States and Indian Nations. The eight treaties featured in *Nation to Nation: Treaties Between the United States and American Indian Nations*, on loan from the [National Archives and Records Administration](#), are representative of the approximately 374 that were ratified between the United States and Native Nations.



TREATY WITH THE DELAWARES, 1778



TREATY OF FORT STANWIX, 1784



SIX NATIONS TREATY, 1789



MUSCOGEE TREATY, 1790



# US Government Policies

## COLONIAL PERIOD

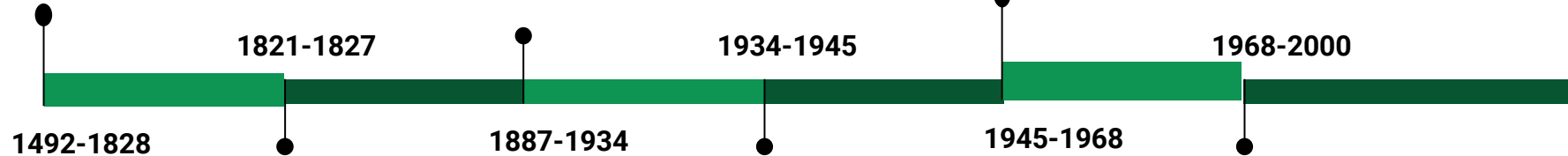
The proliferation of European colonies created a dominant presence on North America's East Coast. These colonies acquired Indian lands under the so-called Doctrine of Discovery and signed treaties with the tribal nations. Following the Revolutionary War, the newborn United States worked with tribal nations on a government-to-government basis

## ALLOTMENT AND ASSIMILATION PERIOD

Settlers' increasing desire for the land within reservations and the push to assimilate Natives into mainstream American life led to the General Allotment Act of 1887. This Act (also known as the Dawes Act) dictated the forced conversion of communally held tribal lands into small parcels for ownership by individual Natives. More than 90 million acres—nearly two-thirds of reservation land—were taken from tribal nations and given to settlers, most often without compensation to tribal nations

## TERMINATION PERIOD

Congress decided to terminate federal recognition and assistance to more than 100 tribal nations. Public Law 280, passed in 1953, imposed state criminal and civil jurisdiction on many tribal nations in California, Minnesota, Nebraska, Oregon, and Wisconsin. These policies created economic disaster for many tribal nations, resulting in the loss of millions of acres of valuable natural resource land through tax forfeiture sales. Federal policy emphasized the physical relocation of Native people from reservations to urban areas



## REMOVAL, RESERVATION, AND TREATY PERIOD

The U.S. government's pressure on eastern tribal nations to move west, resulting in forced migration. Seeking to obtain more tribal land, the government embarked on an aggressive military campaign throughout the west, relocating tribal nations to reservations. In general, reservations were established through treaties, which required tribal nations to trade large tracts of land for the continued right of self-governance under the protection of the United States.

## INDIAN REORGANIZATION PERIOD

The federal government, under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, ended the discredited policy of allotment. It began to restore tribal lands to tribal nations and attempted to help tribal nations reform their governments. The federal government created programs and projects to help rehabilitate reservation economies

## SELF DETERMINATION PERIOD

A resurgence of tribal government involvement in federal policy development ended the termination era and prompted the development of a policy of self-determination and self-governance. Policies emerged favoring tribal control over their destinies. Under the self-determination and self-governance acts, tribal governments managed many federal programs serving Indian people

# Nation to Nation 2000-Present



Administration



Photo courtesy [Department of Interior on Facebook](#)

NOVEMBER 15, 2021

## Fact Sheet: Building A New Era of Nation-to-Nation Engagement

 > [BRIEFING ROOM](#) > [STATEMENTS AND RELEASES](#)

Since taking office in January 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration has taken historic steps to support Tribal communities in their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, advance equity and opportunity for all American Indians and Alaska Natives, and help Tribal Nations overcome new and long-standing challenges. The Administration's work is rooted in the President's respect for the unique Nation-to-Nation relationship, commitment to the country's trust and treaty responsibilities, and desire to strengthen Tribal sovereignty and advance Tribal self-determination. The White House Tribal Nations Summit is an opportunity to celebrate the progress we have made in this new Nation-to-Nation era and map out plans to improve outcomes for this generation of Native Americans and for the seven generations to come.

**Working Together to Defeat COVID-19.** When President Biden took office, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated pre-existing health care inequities facing Tribal Nations and disproportionately affected Native American populations across the country. American Indians and Alaska Natives experienced infection rates over [three times higher](#) than non-Hispanic whites, were [four times more likely](#) to be hospitalized as a result of

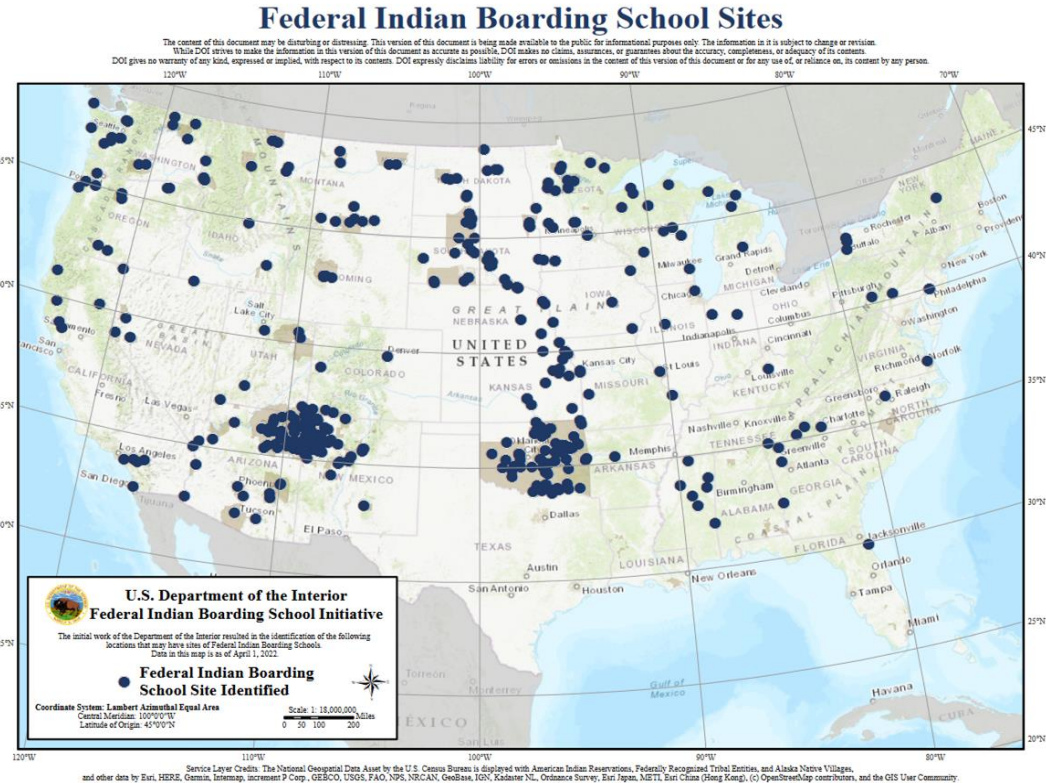
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/15/fact-sheet-building-a-new-era-of-nation-to-nation-engagement/>

# Boarding Schools

From 1819 to 1969, the federal Indian boarding school system consisted of 408 federal schools across 37 states or then territories, including 21 schools in Alaska and 7 schools in Hawaii.

The investigation identified marked or unmarked burial sites at approximately 53 different schools across the system. As the investigation continues, the Department expects the number of identified burial sites to increase.

<https://www.bia.gov/service/federal-indian-boarding-school-initiative>





# We are Still Here



“I think about the stories we don’t hear.”

“Who is telling this story and from what perspective?”

# Visibility and Acknowledgement



Photos by Naomi Bishop

Is there visibility and acknowledgement in your library of Native Nations?  
Are there books in your collection by Native authors?

# Partnerships

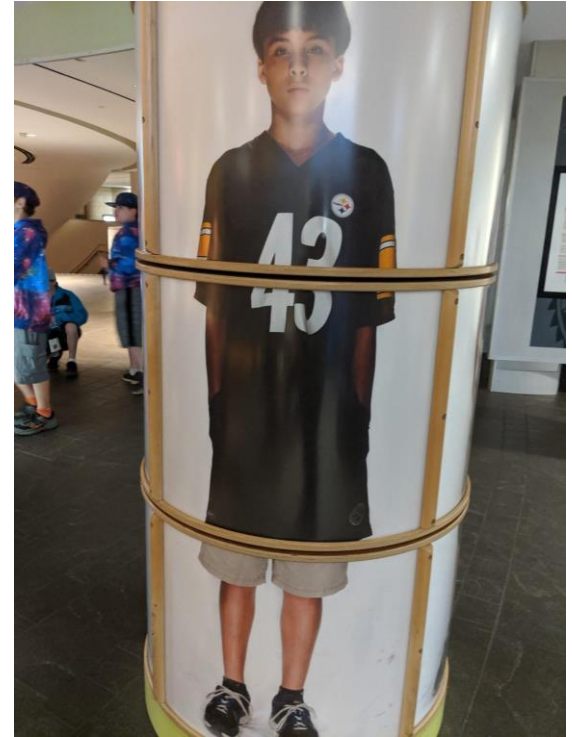
Phoenix Suns  
City Jersey  
honors Arizona  
22 Tribal  
Nations



<https://www.nba.com/suns/originativ>

# Empowering Families

<https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/empower-native-kids-to-read>



Photos by Naomi Bishop

# Popular Culture

Television and movies featuring Native actors continues to help with representation of Native youth.

“Native American creators pave the way for more Indigenous stories, representation in Hollywood”



Comanche Nation vs. 'Predator'

'Prey', the latest movie in the 'Predator' film franchise, premieres in August and will be released in full Comanche language

FX  
RESERVATION  
DOGS

# Fashion and Arts

 **Phoenix Suns** ✓  
@Suns · Follow

Representation through respect and education.

@PayPal | @PlayAtGila



2:10 PM · Nov 10, 2022

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VOGUE

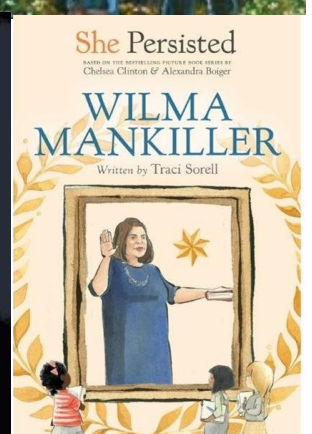
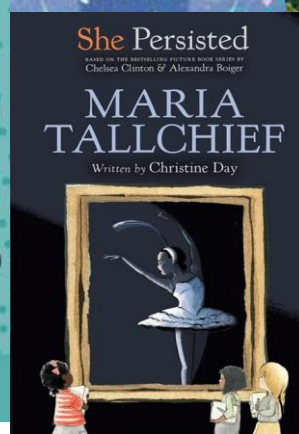
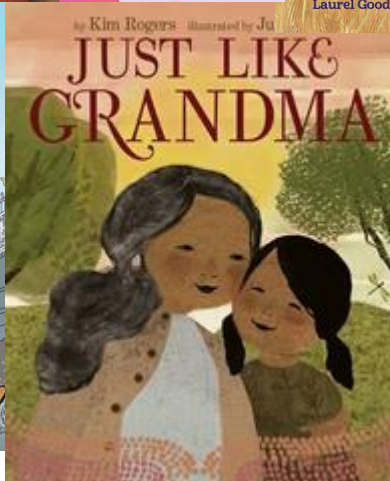
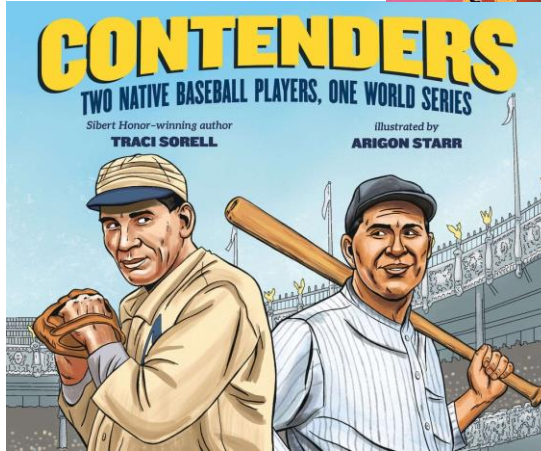
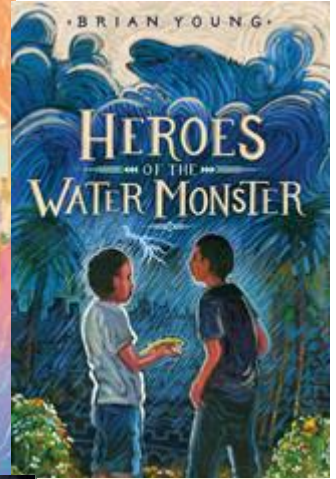
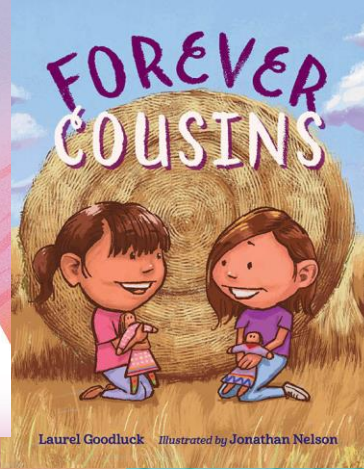
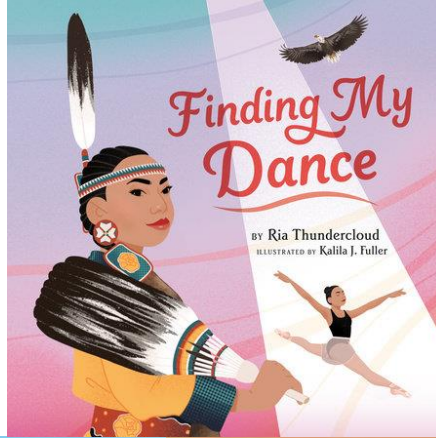


Artist Elias Jade Not Afraid, left, with family and friends Photographed by June Canedo, Vogue, February 2021

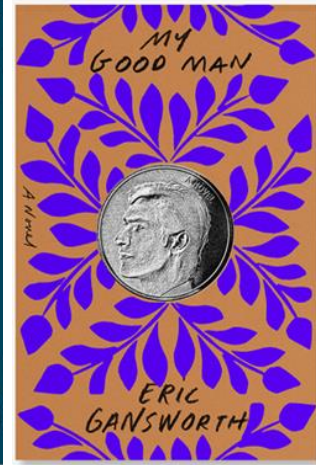
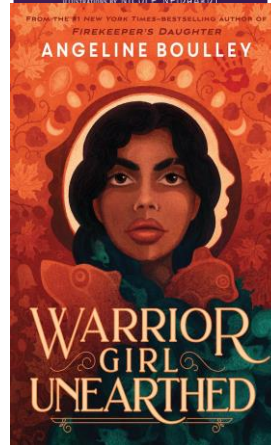
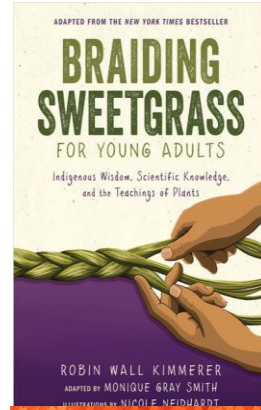
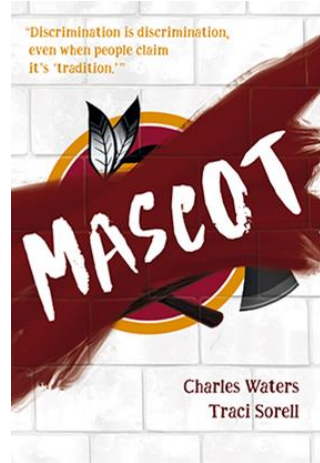
<https://www.nba.com/news/phoenix-suns-city-edition>

<https://www.vogue.com/article/santa-fe-indian-market-designers-artists-preview>

# What's New?



# New Native YA Books





# What can teachers and librarians do?

- ❑ Collection Development policy that reviews books for stereotypes and misrepresentations
- ❑ Invite local tribal communities, to be guest speakers or a part of school programs
- ❑ Discuss, display, and learn about Indigenous knowledges and environments.
- ❑ Think critically and evaluate and weed your collections
- ❑ Buy, promote, and read own voices books written and illustrated by American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander authors and illustrators
- ❑ Educate yourself and students about the Native communities
- ❑ Join and support [American Indian Library Association](#) and other Native American non-profit organizations

# Small but Mighty

“Change takes time and sacrifice”

Plant seeds - Cultivate seeds - Water seeds

Growth and transformation



Check-in with communities and ask for their perspectives on what they want to see at the library.

Listen to their stories, acknowledge their stories, tear down barriers.

Go beyond the surface and build relationships and partnerships with community organizations.

Reflect on impact. Many times Native Americans are overlooked and not valued or celebrated in communities.

# References

[American Indian and Alaska Native Data Links](#)

[Facts for Features: American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month: November 2022](#)

[Tribal Nations & the United States: An Introduction | NCAI <https://www.ncai.org/about-tribes>](#)

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NMAI Nation to Nation <https://americanindian.si.edu/nationtonation/>

[Heartdrum an Imprint of HarperCollins](#)

[Teacher's Guide](#) for Indigenous Peoples History for Young People, adapted by Jean Mendoza and Debbie Reese